

1). For this purpose, the decision block receives forward-equalized samples $\theta(n)$ without prior modulo decoding. Therefore, decision block 54 must comprise an extended slicer 56, with a dynamic range sufficient to handle the entire constellation of possible values of the input samples to receiver 50, unlike decision device 52 which is limited to the range $[-M, M]$. (The notation $[-M, M]$ is conventionally known in the art to indicate that the lower bound $-M$ is included in the range, while the upper bound M is not included.) The other elements of decision block 54, including an adaptive DFE 58, error predictor 64 and adders 60, 62 and 66, must similarly be configured with sufficient dynamic range and resolution to handle this constellation.

Please amend the text, page 23, lines 1-20, as follows:

Fig. 5 is a block diagram that schematically illustrates a receiver 90, in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention. This receiver is similar to receiver 50 shown in Fig. 3, except that decision block 54 is used both to generate the adaptive DFE and error prediction coefficients and to process the samples $\theta(n)$ before they are input to decoder 26. Receiver 90 can be used to receive signals from transmitter 10 and to convey adaptive filter coefficients to the transmitter in substantially the same manner as can receiver 50. Receiver 90 has the advantage over receiver 50 of being less sensitive to short-term variations in the channel characteristics, particularly noise, since DFE 58 and error predictor 64 adapt to correct for these variations even when feedback loop filter 16 has not yet been adjusted to compensate for them. On the other hand, because DFE 58 is a part of the decoding path of the output symbols $d(n)$ in receiver 90, there is still some likelihood that the output symbols will be corrupted by error propagation.